

DOCKET NO. 91-603-C - ORDER NO. 93-112

JANUARY 29, 1993

This matter is before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the November 6, 1992, request of Mr. Walter Baxter (Mr. Baxter) for a hearing to address the Commission's decision to convert the telephone service of all Beaufort County residents receiving service from United Telephone Company of the Carolinas (United) from the Ridgeland Exchange to the Beaufort Exchange. This decision was rendered by the Commission by Order No. 92-695 on August 21, 1992.

1. On May 30, 1991, United filed a tariff proposing to convert the telephone service of its Beaufort County customers residing on Calawassie and Spring Islands from the Ridgeland to the Beaufort Exchange. This tariff was filed after United balloted the residents of these islands and received unanimous approval of the proposed conversion.
2. At approximately the same time the Commission received a petition signed by all residents of Red

Bluff Island, Beaufort County, requesting service out of the Beaufort Exchange.

3. On June 18, 1991, the Commission received a resolution from the Beaufort County Council supporting service out of the Beaufort Exchange for all United customers residing in Beaufort County. On the same day, the Commission approved United's tariff, effective July 1, 1991, converting the telephone service of residents of Calawassie and Spring Islands to the Beaufort Exchange.

4. On July 18, 1991, the Commission received a petition from residents of Beaufort County opposing conversion of their telephone service. Thereafter, the Commission reviewed additional letters from other Beaufort County residents requesting the conversion of their service from the Ridgeland Exchange to the Beaufort Exchange.

5. On March 31, 1992, the Commission issued Order No. 92-235 approving the June 1991 petition of the Red Bluff Island residents to convert their service from the Ridgeland Exchange to the Beaufort Exchange.

6. On June 1, 1992, the Commission instructed the Commission Staff (the Staff) to ballot each of the Ridgeland Exchange subscribers residing in Beaufort

County to determine their interest in having their telephone service converted to the Beaufort Exchange.

The Staff mailed 194 ballots; 144 of the ballots were returned. The responses were virtually evenly divided between those Ridgeland subscribers residing in Beaufort County who supported and those who opposed the conversion.

Based on the responses to the ballots received by the Staff and the prior petitions of other United subscribers requesting conversion to the Beaufort Exchange, particularly those residing on Calawassie, Spring, and Red Bluff Islands, the Commission granted the petitions requesting conversion of service from the Ridgeland Exchange to the Beaufort Exchange.

The Commission now finds and concludes that Mr. Baxter's request for a hearing to determine whether or not all Ridgeland Exchange subscribers residing in Beaufort County should have their service converted to the Beaufort Exchange should be denied. The Staff has previously polled each individual Ridgeland Exchange customer and, consequently, the Commission has provided such subscriber who has been affected by its decision in Order No. 92-695 with the opportunity to express his opinion on the conversion. Therefore, the Commission concludes that evidence received at a hearing would not add anything to its decision on this matter. Accordingly, the Commission denies Mr. Baxter's request and affirms Order No. 92-695.

Finally, the Commission hereby Orders United to institute a reduced toll plan for long distance calls placed from the 726 Exchange to the 521, 522, 525,

838, and 846 Exchanges. These rates, effective July 1, 1993, shall be as follows:

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (MON-FRI)	\$.08 per min
5:00 PM - 11:00 PM (MON-FRI)	\$.07 per min
11:00 PM - 8:00 AM (MON-FRI)	\$.06 per min
11:00 PM FRI - 8:00 A.M. MON	\$.06 per min

IT IS SO ORDERED.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

(SEAL)